



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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SENATOR DIANNE WILKERSON
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MEMBER
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BONDING, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND STATE ASSETS
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
EDUCATION

August 18, 2006

VIA E-MAIL: cable.inquiry@state.ma.us

Alicia C. Matthews, Director
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Matthews:

I write in opposition to Verizon New England Inc.'s (Verizon's) petition on Docket Number CTV 06-1 to adopt competitive license regulations. The Massachusetts Cable Division must be careful not to disregard sound policy simply in the name of competition.

As Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, I have reviewed MGL c. 166A and Verizon's proposed regulations. Based on my review, I find that Verizon's proposal seeks to circumvent legislative intent. It is clear that the Legislature thought it more important that there be a thorough review and opportunity for community input than there be an expedited process. In short, it's more important to do it right than to do it quickly.

I have also listened to the concerns of my constituents who feel that Verizon's proposal is absent of community consideration, sound reasoning, tried and true licensing determinants and long-respected procedural requirements. I am compelled to honor their concerns.

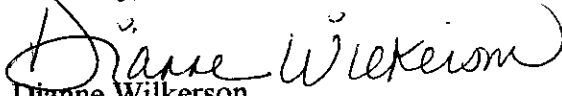
I wholeheartedly concur with Boston Neighborhood Network when it states, "[i]f the Cable Division reduces the licensing process to 90 days, it will destroy the local licensing process and abandon a great tradition of companies and communities working together."

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What Verizon calls an "unreasonable barrier to competition for new entrants," I call a necessary method to make sure our community is respected and that quality of service is treated with utmost importance. Moreover, as Verizon purports to advocate for consumer choice *after* the licensing process is over, I advocate for community choice and voice at the front-end of the negotiations as it has always been.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dianne Wilkerson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dianne Wilkerson

State Senator
Second Suffolk District